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## Newsletter

### Number 30

### 12 November 2010



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

#### Thanks

.. To those parents who transported and supported our children at the Poroti School Zone Athletics on Tuesday.

.. To those parents assisting with lunchtime Athletics and PMP when their busy schedules allow.

.. A huge thank you to Olivia and her family for the donation of our very first school chicken and all her accessories.

.. Those supporting our chocolate fund-raising efforts (and especially those awesome parents co-ordinating distribution).

.. Those who assisted with this week's headlice inspection.

#### People of the Week

.. Issac who has done a great job supporting a friend in recent weeks. A great example of the "responsibility" virtue.

#### Cups and Trophies

It is time to polish up the trophy and return it to school as we are beginning preparations for the end of year Prize Giving. Please return to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.



#### Responsibility Virtue

A reminder to continue your good work at home on the Responsibility virtue. Please let us know if you have misplaced your support materials and advise us of special gains so we can acknowledge these in the newsletter.

#### BMX School Challenge

Congratulations to Andrew & Brad Martin, Jordan & Abby Dwight, Kate, Samuel & Isaac Williams, Ethan Hare, Maddison, Tyrone & Bronson Fred who competed in the BMX School Challenge last Sunday. We came 5<sup>th</sup> out of 11 teams - Well done. For some of our riders it was their first time riding on the BMX track.

#### Yr 7 & 8 Abseiling Reminder

This event will be taking place next Tuesday 16 November. All students are to be at school by 7.30am to leave promptly at 7.45am. A notice was sent home today with information and equipment required for the day. If there are any parents who are able to help with supervision, please phone the office on Monday. We are still awaiting some very late permission slips. Please see these are returned on Monday also.

**think... SOLD!**  
think yellow,  
think...  
**Maggie Dixon**  
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#### Term 4 School Contributions

Those who opted for quarterly payment of their school contribution will have received a payment request today - please check your child's bag. It would be appreciated if all outstanding contributions could be paid within the two weeks or by a mutually agreed alternative date. Thanks.

#### Term Calendar

Additional dates will be advised as these come to hand.

18 / 19 November	Tech Quest (more to follow)
30 November	Year 7 and 8 Interschool Athletics
30 Nov - 3 Dec	Year 4 camp at Marsden Bay
2-3 December	Year 3 camp at Marsden Bay
6 December	Year 7 and 8 abseiling at Whangarei Falls
10 December	Reports issued to parents
13 December	Team Athletics Day
14 December	Prize Giving
15 December	Year 8 Fun Day
16 December	Final day of school year

#### Senior School Request

If you have an old sofa you would like to donate to Room 10 we would really love to have it. Thank you.

#### Junior School Request

.. old towels. Any donations would be gratefully received.

#### Year 3 / 4 Camp to Marsden Bay

If you have not yet returned camp consents please send these to school as soon as possible. **Parents are reminded there will be a camp meeting in room 6 - 7:00 PM Tuesday 16 November.** Parents attending camp are especially encouraged to attend this meeting. Any questions please to Mrs Abbott.

#### Mary Wallace Art Awards

You may recall that two art scholarships were presented last year based on a portfolio of artworks submitted for judging. If you think your child might be interested please contact the school office for further information, or chat to their teacher about their suitability. In a nutshell, each portfolio is to contain .. 4 pieces of art work completed by the candidate this year .. 1 piece completed (at school) in some other year .. a brief written statement on one of the art pieces. Portfolios are to be submitted for judging by 29 November.

#### Lunchtime Athletics Competitions

Thank you to those parents who are assisting with lunchtime athletics competitions. Please encourage your children to participate in these events. Please also ensure that all children (years 4 to 8) wear clothing suitable for track and field events.

#### Drink Bottles

Please ensure your child brings a drink bottle to school each day to place on their desk. Water is best.

#### Home Gardens

Parents of children in the Home Garden Programme are asked to note that the **judging will take place on SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER**, starting 8:00 AM and concluding early evening. Parents will be asked to place a balloon at their gate, provide directions to the garden, tie up dogs etc. (further details to follow next week). Children are welcome to meet the judges (although this is not essential) but it will not be possible to be precise about the time of your visit. **Please also note that garden diaries are due at school 9:00 AM FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER.**



The children have also asked for another seedling swap day. So .. if your child would like to swap a seedling or some other garden treasure please send it to school in a plastic bag on Monday (15 November).

### **Headlice Inspection**

If you were advised of infestation please treat your child's hair before their return to school on Monday. Children will be re-checked in one week. All parents are asked to check their child(ren)'s hair weekly and to respond promptly in the event of infestation.

### **Early arrival at school**

Please ensure you do not drop your child at school before 8:00 AM in the morning. We can offer some level of supervision beyond this time but would prefer arrivals post 8:15 AM if possible please.

### **School T-Shirts**

If your child has borrowed a school T-Shirt please ensure this is returned to school (washed) a.s.a.p.

### **Skids Holiday Programme**

Skids will again be offering a fun filled holiday programme from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December 2010 (half day) and from 17<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011. There will be options to book for full days, short days or even half days. Please register your interest by ringing or txt to 0278461724. Alternatively pop into the hall after school to find out more information.



### **2010 Chocolate Fundraiser**

If your child would like more they are available from the office - before or after school. Please return any unsold chocolates asap. All money is required back to the office by Friday 19 November 2010.

### **Calenders 2011**

A 2<sup>nd</sup> order for Calenders is being placed. If you have not already placed an order and would like to do so, please hand your order into the Office by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Friday Lunches**

Thanks to a wonderful parent, we can now offer you a healthy day-off making school lunches - Ham & Salad Filled Rolls or Salad Filled Rolls. The rolls come with a juice for \$3.50 or a milk drink for an extra \$0.50c. Hot pies, sausage rolls and Big Daddy's (aka double happy) are still available for ordering as usual.



### **Community Notices**

Home Cleaner Available - Ph Mandy Blackley, 0274744279 or txt and I'll contact you.

Free to a good home, 2 roosters. Ph Lisa 4356199.

For Sale - 4 weaner lambs. Price negotiable. Phone Helen 4335512 or at school office 4335823.

For Rent - 3bdrm hse, Matarau Rd, approximately 3km from the school. Ph 4335814.

House to Rent - 4 bdroom villa with wetback fire box, spring water, wet area shower/bathroom, HRV system. Pets allowed. Dbl garage. Situated at Matarau. Available immediately for min 12 months \$350/wk. Ph Naomi on 4335786 or 02102676598.

WGHS Enrolments & Orientation day - Monday 6 December 2010. Enrolment interviews at WGHS every Tuesday & Thursday during school hours. Call now for a prospectus and interview time.

Kamo Amateur Swim Club - Registration Fri 5 November, 4.00pm at Kamo High School pool. New members welcome. Come prepared to swim if requiring an assessment. Swimmers need to be confident in water and swim width of KHS pool. Stroke improvement begins Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Nov at 4.30pm and thereafter Mon & Fri, 4.30pm. First club night, with timed races, Wed 1 Dec at 6.00pm. If you would like to help out or have any queries, ph Sue Mehrtens on 4335606 or 021834570.

Kamo Tennis Club Inc - Jnrs Tues 3.30-5.30pm beginning 19 October, Club Nights Tues & Thurs 5.30pm, already commenced, Ladies Day Thur 9am-11.30am.

Rural Homebased Childcare - Porse approved, 200m from Matarau School. 20 hrs free for 3 months to 5 years old. Phone today to book your space. Amemari 0211413221.

## **Bream Bay Fun Run & Walk - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November @ 9.00am.**

**For registration forms and more info visit [www.wps.school.nz](http://www.wps.school.nz)**

A&P Show Children's Pet Competition - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Entry forms available at the office.

Marsden Bay Holiday Camp - Marsden Bay Christian Camp, variety of indoor and outdoor activities, ages 9-13, Sunday 9 Jan 2pm to Friday 14 Jan 10am. For enquiries ph Helena Lamason 09 4447456 or email [hlamason@hotmail.com](mailto:hlamason@hotmail.com).

Whangarei Academy of Gymnastics - Play gym for preschoolers, gym fun and competitive gym for school age, trampoline competitions also. Spaces now available for 2011. Phone Marianne 4352990 Mon-Thur or email [wags.gym@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wags.gym@xtra.co.nz).

### **Research findings on what really makes a difference to learning**

	<u>Last week</u>	<u>This week</u>
Bigger difference than was believed	Students disposition to learn	Class environment
Lesser difference than was believed	Audio visual aids	Physical attributes of students

### **Class placements for 2011**

We will shortly be giving thought to 2011 class placements. Although placement decisions must ultimately be made by the teaching staff, we do invite parents to advise of any matters they would like us to consider when placing their child. **If there are any matters you would like us to consider please contact Kevin within the next week or so. No guarantees but we will add your thoughts to the mix.**

### **Looking Ahead**

Matarau School will finish this year with approximately 260 students - our highest number ever. In spite of this, the board has continued to ensure class numbers are as low as we can afford them to be. With similar numbers expected next year, the board has again committed to funding additional teachers to keep numbers as low as possible - especially in the junior and senior schools. It is highly important that we have good information with which to plan. **If you know your child will NOT be at Matarau School next year please phone Helen next week or leave a message on the school answer phone over the weekend.** Alternatively, if you know of children likely to enrol, of whom we may not be aware, please also let us know. Thanks.

### **2010 Achievement Targets**

Most of you will be aware that the school is required to identify areas of relative underperformance and to set achievement targets in these areas. This year we set targets in mathematics and spelling .. see below

Area	March scores	National comparison	Target	Outcome (November)
Mathematics PAT	38% of children achieving stanine 6 and above.	40% of children achieving stanine 6 and above nationally	50% of children will be achieving stanine 6 and above	71% of children now achieving stanine 6 and above
	41% of children stanine 4 and below	40% of children nationally achieving stanine 4 and below	Fewer than 25% of children will be achieving stanine 4 and below	15% of children now achieving stanine 4 and below
Spelling Peters Test	54% of students spelling above their actual age.		65% of students will be spelling above their actual age	57% of students now spelling above their actual age

Some targets in spelling were not achieved. While our students continue to spell at levels well above national levels, we know there is scope for improvement and this will remain an area of focus in 2011. More information to follow on this. Junior targets also to follow.



### Sun safety

A big congratulations to students (and parents) for 100% compliance to our sunhat policy. The board has asked me to remind parents that Northland's summer sun is especially dangerous and that we need to work together to teach the sun safe message to our students. We would encourage you to buy clothing with a sun protection factor if you can (our school T-shirts comply) and to ensure that (at minimum) clothing covers children's shoulders (long sleeves even better). You are also encouraged to put sunblock on your children in the mornings (especially on days where they will be largely outside - e.g. sports days) and to put sun block in their school bags at your discretion (with perhaps guidance at home on how to apply). You never know, your efforts may save a life.

### National Standards

Earlier in the year I advised that the school would be implementing the recently released National Standards. To avoid being drawn into controversy, and to avoid undermining the passionately held views of those opposed to the standards, we decided to just quietly get on with the job. Recent discussions with parents, and a concerted campaign to undermine the standards wider afield, probably make it necessary for me to explain why we have made the decision to proceed. The issues are complex and so I will boil this down to a few 'nutshell' thoughts.

- 1) One of the questions we most get from parents is .. "How does my child's achievement compare with that of other children their age?" We think this is a reasonable question. Schools should be able to answer this question using reliable and varied diagnostic information.
- 2) In order to do this these schools must be competent in using these diagnostic tools and these tools should, at least in part (and where possible), be referenced to the wider school aged population (called norm referencing).
- 3) A great deal of money is being poured into some schools to lift under achievement. The Ministry of Education (and government) have an obligation to children, parents and taxpayers to know how much value is added to learning as a result of this investment.
- 4) In order for the Ministry to determine the extent of "added value", norm referenced diagnostic information needs to be a part of this mix (not the total mix). They will not have this information if schools are not using a variety of reliable norm referenced assessment tools.
- 5) The above points give rise to the next obvious question .. Are the tools currently available to schools good enough to serve these purposes? There is no doubt that these tools are not perfect and in some instances they are contradictory. Nevertheless, we believe that sufficient good quality norm referenced (National Standard) tools are available to get started. The Ministry of Education has committed to further work to ensure these tools are improved and we should hold them to this.
- 6) It is a legal requirement for schools to implement the National Standards. We believe it is our job to manage this process to the best of our ability and for those opposed to make their statement on election day.

In reality we were using National Standard assessments long before they became a legal requirement. We will continue to use the best tools available to give the best information we can on your child's progress and attainment. We are also encouraged by the Ministry's commitment to improving on the assessments currently available to schools.

Please find attached a National Standards brochure from the Ministry of Education. I feel the most useful comments are those contained under the heading "How will the teacher work out where your child is at?" and I suggest you read this section carefully.

I am more than happy to meet with any parent wishing to further discuss our approach to the standards. I have done little justice to the complexities around current debates by what is written above but my objective was simply to give you some confidence in our decision to proceed.

Regards  
Kevin Trewhella  
PRINCIPAL

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children, please support them**

